WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A gateway device, comprising:
      a first network interface for connection to a home
5 network;
      a second network interface for connection to a
telephone network;
      a call set up unit for carrying out a call set up with
respect to a specified address on the telephone network,
10 upon receiving a solicitation for the call set up with
respect to the specified address on the telephone network
from a contents processing device connected to the home
network; and
      a transfer unit for transferring data transmitted from
15 the contents processing device to a connection established
by the call set up, and data arriving from the connection
established by the call set up to the contents processing
device.

20 2.   The gateway device of claim 1, wherein the call set up
unit receives the solicitation made by the contents
processing device which has a need to communicate with the
specified address in order to process a specific contents
information.
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3.   The gateway device of claim 1, further comprising:
      a notification unit for notifying that the gateway
device is in a state capable of responding to the
solicitation, through the home network.
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4.   A contents processing device, comprising:
      a network interface for connection to a home network;
      a protocol processing unit for executing protocol
processing for communications with a server device through
35 a telephone network;

a solicitation unit for soliciting a set up of connection to the server device through the telephone network, to a gateway device which is connected with both the home network and the telephone network; and

5   a contents processing unit for processing contents information according to the communications with the server device.

5.   The contents processing device of claim 4, further
10 comprising:

an additional network interface for connection to the telephone network; and

a judgement unit for judging whether the communications with the server device through the
15 additional network interface is possible or not;

wherein the solicitation unit solicits the set up of connection to the server device through the telephone network and the protocol processing unit carries out the communications with the server device through the gateway
20 device, when the judgement unit judged that the communications with the server device through the additional network interface is not possible.

6.   The contents processing device of claim 4, wherein the
25 protocol processing unit carries out a prescribed procedure using the communications with the server device in order to obtain a permission to process a specific contents information, when a need to obtain a permission to process the specific contents information arises.
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7.   The contents processing device of claim 6, wherein the contents processing unit reads out the specific contents information from a prescribed storage medium, and the protocol processing unit obtains an address information of
35 the server device which is to be used in setting up

connection to the server device, which is recorded along with the specific contents information in the prescribed storage medium.

5 8.   The contents processing device of claim 7, wherein the protocol processing unit authenticates the address information using an authentication information for the address information which is also recorded in the prescribed storage medium, before obtaining the address
10 information.

9.   The contents processing device of claim 7, wherein the protocol processing unit obtains the address information by decrypting an encrypted address information which is
15 recorded in the prescribed storage medium.

10.   The contents processing device of claim 6, wherein the protocol processing unit executes the protocol processing by executing a communication protocol program which is
20 recorded in the prescribed storage medium along with the specific contents information.

11.   The contents processing device of claim 10, wherein the protocol processing unit executes the communication
25 protocol program by decrypting an encrypted communication protocol program which is recorded in the prescribed storage medium.

12.   The contents processing device of claim 6, wherein the
30 protocol processing unit executes the protocol processing by executing one communication protocol program that is executable at the contents processing device among a plurality of communication protocol programs of identical function written in different programming languages which
35 are recorded in the prescribed storage medium along with

the specific contents information.

13.   The contents processing device of claim 12, wherein
the protocol processing unit executes said one
5   communication protocol program by decrypting a
corresponding one encrypted communication protocol program
which is recorded in the prescribed storage medium.

14.   The contents processing device of claim 4, wherein the
10   contents processing unit utilizes contents information
recorded in a prescribed storage medium when a replay
condition recorded in the prescribed storage medium is
satisfied or when a permission regarding contents
information utilization is obtained through a prescribed
15   procedure.

15.   The contents processing device of claim 14, further
comprising:
an extraction unit for extracting an address
20   information of the server device to be communicated with in
order to obtain the permission when the replay condition
recorded in the prescribed storage medium is not satisfied;
wherein the solicitation unit solicits the set up of
connection to the server device according to the address
25   information extracted by the extraction unit, and the
protocol processing unit carries out the prescribed
procedure for obtaining the permission from the server
device through the connection established by the gateway
device in response to a solicitation by the solicitation
30   unit.

16.   The contents processing device of claim 15, wherein
the protocol processing unit carries out the prescribed
procedure by executing a communication protocol program
35   which is recorded in the prescribed storage medium along

with the contents information.

17. A gateway device, comprising:

a first network interface for connection to a local

5   network;

a second network interface for connection to an
external network;

a connection set up unit for carrying out a connection
set up with respect to a specified address on the external

10   network, upon receiving a solicitation for the connection
set up with respect to the specified address on the
external network from a contents processing device
connected to the local network; and

a transfer unit for transferring data transmitted from

15   the contents processing device to a connection established
by the connection set up, and data arriving from the
connection established by the connection set up to the
contents processing device.

20   18. A contents processing device, comprising:

a network interface for connection to a local network;

a protocol processing unit for executing protocol
processing for communications with a server device through
an external network;

25   a solicitation unit for soliciting a set up of
connection to the server device through the external
network, to a gateway device which is connected with both
the local network and the external network; and

a contents processing unit for processing contents

30   information according to the communications with the server
device.

19. A gateway device, comprising:

a first network interface for connection to a first

35   network;

a second network interface for connection to a second network different from the first network;

a connection set up unit for carrying out a connection set up with respect to a specified address on the second
5   network, upon receiving a solicitation for the connection set up with respect to the specified address on the second network from a contents processing device connected to the first network; and

a transfer unit for transferring data transmitted from
10   the contents processing device to a connection established by the connection set up, and data arriving from the connection established by the connection set up to the contents processing device.

15   20.   A contents processing device, comprising:

a network interface for connection to a first network;

a protocol processing unit for executing protocol processing for communications with an external device through a second network different from the first network;
20   a solicitation unit for soliciting a set up of connection to the external device through the second network, to a gateway device which is connected with both the first network and the second network; and

a contents processing unit for processing contents
25   information according to the communications with the external device.

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